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# HOMES OF OUR FOREFATHERS

. . . IN . . .

BOSTON, OLD ENGLAND AND

BOSTON, NEW ENGLAND

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FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS BY

EDWIN WHITEFIELD

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E. WHITEFIELD

211 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

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HOMES  
OF  
OUR FOREFATHERS  
IN  
BOSTON, ENGLAND.

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BOSTON:  
E. WHITEFIELD, 211 TREMONT STREET.  
1889.





I DEDICATE THIS BOOK

TO MY BELOVED WIFE

LILLIAN,

WITHOUT WHOSE SYMPATHY AND ASSISTANCE

IT WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

E. WHITEFIELD.







## *PREFACE.*

IN presenting this work to the public I wish to say a few words.

Last year I visited England for the special purpose of sketching and hunting up whatever there might be of interest in the Boston which gave its name to our own city, and I thought that by bringing together in one volume the two Bostons, I could produce a work which would be much more interesting than if they were published separately.

I can honestly say that no labor, time, or expense has been spared in accomplishing this object: and I have endeavored to the best of my ability to produce a work of which Bostonians, both English and American, will not be ashamed. It is not in some respects all that I could desire, but where any imperfections have occurred they were unavoidable, and will, I trust, be not too severely criticised.

I need scarcely say to those who have seen my other work, "*Homes of our Forefathers in the Six New England States.*" that this volume has been gotten up in a far more expensive style; and I flatter myself that a generous public will appreciate the effort I have made to please them.

In conclusion, I wish to return my sincere thanks to those who have given me information respecting the buildings herein represented.

The Aspinwall House, now in Brookline, when built stood on land that formed part of Boston.



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## HISTORICAL NOTES.

Boston in Lincolnshire, England, is situated on both sides of the Witham River, at a distance of about six miles from its mouth. There is a probability that the Romans had some kind of a settlement in this neighborhood, or perhaps lower down the river, in order to prevent pirates from ascending the Witham and attacking their city of Lindum, now Lincoln, as the river was deeper then than it is now, and vessels of considerable size could ascend as far up as Lincoln.

But it is not until the middle of the seventh century that we have any definite knowledge of this place, then called Yecanhoe, or Icanhoe.

According to an old writer, John of Tynemouth, a monastery was founded here by St. Botolph in the year 650, and he died here A.D. 680. This monastery, and whatever settlements might have been connected with it, was destroyed by the Danes in the year 870; and from this period until 1090 we have no record of what transpired. But it is certain that there was at that time some kind of a village; for we are informed that in that year Alan, Earl of Brittany, gave a church, as the gift of the Church of St. Botolph, to the abbey of St. Mary at York.

In the reign of Henry II., about 1160, we find that Boston, then called St. Botolph's Town, was the property of Conan, Earl of Richmond. After his death, in 1171, it belonged to the Crown, until 1241. During this time Boston must have been growing, for we hear of the manufacture of woolen cloths being carried on here to a considerable extent.

The commerce of Boston, also, must have been considerable at this early date, for even in 1205 the share of taxes paid by Boston was greater than that of any other port in England except London, the latter paying £836, and Boston £789.

The merchants of Flanders and the Hanseatic League carried on a large trade with Boston about this time, and some of them occupied houses there: the remains of two or three of which may still be seen.

In 1285 Boston must have been surrounded by a wall, as a grant was made by Edward I. of a toll to the burgesses of Boston in aid of repairing said wall.

This grant is very interesting for many reasons, and especially to show that the people of that period enjoyed not only the necessities, but most of the luxuries, that their descendants do at the present time.

The following is a partial list:—

For every one hundred pounds of pepper, ginger, cinnamon, one farthing.

For every one hundred pounds of sugar, liquorice, and pimentum, one farthing.

For every frail of raisins and figs, one farthing.

Every barrel of steel wire, one farthing.



For every one hundred pounds of wax, rice, and almonds, one half-penny.

For every one hundred pounds of cloves, mace, nutmegs, one penny.

For every one hundred pounds of saffron and silk, one penny.

Ton of honey, one penny.

For every one thousand yards of best gray cloth, one penny, etc.

During the century from 1200 to 1300, Boston suffered severely from several floods.

In 1369 Boston was made a staple town for the sale of wool, leather, etc. This word "staple" was applied in the commerce of the Middle Ages; in the first instance to the towns in which the chief products of a country were sold, and afterward to the merchandise sold at these towns.

From this period until the present time, Boston has increased in wealth and population very slowly, and now numbers only about 25,000 people.





## ST. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH.

This elegant structure, claimed to be the largest parish church (without cross aisles) in Europe, was commenced A.D. 1309, in the third year of Edward II. ; and in the following year Dame or Lady Margaret Tilney laid the foundation stone, on which she, Sir John Truesdale, and Richard Stevenson laid £5 each as contributions toward the expenses.

Two hundred years passed away before this building was finished.

It is 300 feet long and 100 feet wide within the walls ; and the tower, claimed to be the tallest and noblest in Europe, is 300 feet in height, including the lantern. It can be seen at a distance of 40 miles by land, and at a still greater distance by sea. The walls are built of stone, and the roof is handsomely ceiled with oak, supported by tall and slender pillars.

Before the building of the tower the church was adorned by four turrets, two of which still remain.

Restorations have at various times been made to this church. In 1854 the southeast chapel was restored at cost of \$3,250 by some citizens of Boston, Mass., as a memorial to the Rev. John Cotton, a former vicar of this church, who emigrated to New England in 1633.

Here are some interesting statistics :—

Steps to the tower, 365 ; corresponding to days in a year.

Windows in church, 52 ; corresponding to weeks in a year.

Pillars in church, 12 ; corresponding to months in a year.

Doors in church, 7 ; corresponding to days in a week.

Steps to library, 24 ; corresponding to hours in a day.

Stairs to chancel, 60 ; corresponding to minutes in an hour.





### SHOD FRIARS' HALL.

This residential building, erected within the last twenty years, is in every respect an imitation of the mediæval style of architecture; but whether it like represents an edifice erected in the early days by the Shod Friars I have been unable to ascertain. It is well worthy of a visit.

*Friars* (*Friars*, brother) were mendicant orders in the Roman Catholic Church. Of these there were several varieties, or brotherhoods, such as the *white*, *grey*, *black*, etc., and some of them went barefooted. I do not know to which of the above this hall belonged.

They were in fact a set of mendicant religious tramps, and Chaucer tells us how they were looked upon in his day:—

“There I here bosteth that he knoweth Hell,  
And God it wot that is but litel wonder;  
There he and hendes are but litel asunder.”







### *THE CHURCH ALMS HOUSE.*

THIS is probably the oldest, or at all events one of the oldest, houses now to be found in Boston. It stands on Wormgate Street, opposite St. Botolph's Church, and is reputed to have been built before the church.

Before the establishment of poorhouses in England there were church *alms-houses*, which in a measure supplied their place : and here, at stated times, the poor and needy came to receive money, clothes, or food. This is a brick building, and bears the marks of great antiquity.







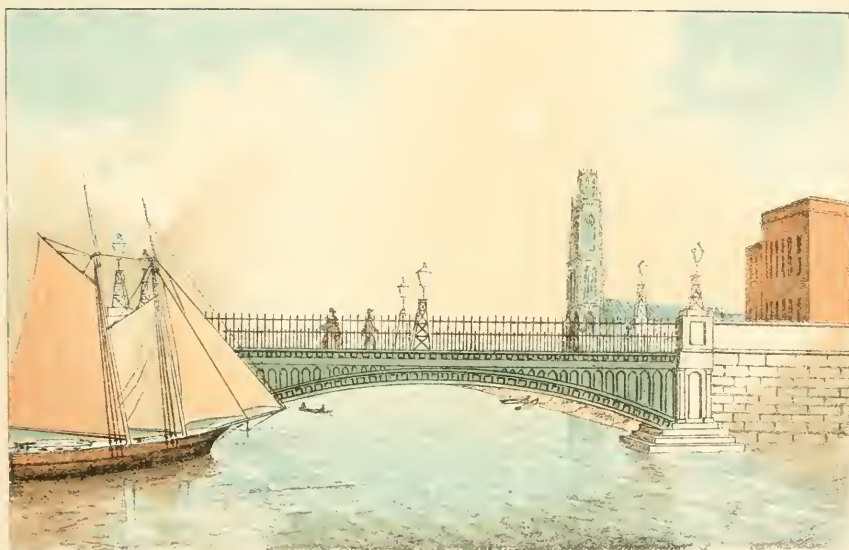


### *THE BRIDGE.*

In the year 1305 a patent grant was made to the town of St. Botolph for the support of a bridge, and in 1328 another patent grant was made for a toll, to keep the bridge in repair. This old bridge, which was built of wood, did not stand where the present one does, and it was probably removed about the year 1500, and another built.

Quite a number of bridges have been built and rebuilt since that time, and in 1802 it was decided to erect a new one of iron, which was opened for travel in 1807. The total expense of this elegant and substantial structure was about £22,000 (\$110,000).

The arch of this bridge is eighty-six feet in span, and the breadth of the bridge about forty feet. The abutments are placed very low, so that the convexity of the arch offers scarcely any obstacle to the passage over the bridge, which is carried across in very nearly a horizontal direction.







### REF. JOHN COTTON'S VICARAGE.

Mr. John Cotton was the son of Rowland Cotton, and was born at Derby, December 4th, 1585. While pursuing his academical studies at Emanuel College, he manifested such strength of judgment and extent of reasoning as made him admired by the most eminent men of the University. He was settled as minister in Boston, remaining there twenty years; but being satisfied that the Church of England was not much more than half reformed, and openly declaring these opinions, he was threatened with persecution. He appealed to his friend the Earl of Dorset; who, after warmly interceding on his behalf with the Archbishop of Canterbury, informed Mr. Cotton that if he had been guilty of drunkenness, uncleanness, or any such lesser fault he could have obtained his pardon; but as he was guilty of Puritanism and Non-conformity, his crime was unpardonable; and therefore he advised him to flee for his safety. This advice he took; and with two other ministers, Mr. Hooker and Mr. Stone, embarked on board the same vessel for New England,—arriving there September 3d, 1633. He was soon afterward selected as their first minister by the Winthrop Colony, who it is generally supposed, named their settlement Boston, in honor of Mr. Cotton. Here he lived respected and beloved until his death, which took place December 23d, 1652, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. He was buried in what is now called King's Chapel Burying Ground.









## ROCHFORD TOWER.

The Rochfords were an ancient and noble family. Raymond de Rochford held property in Boston as early as 1293, and may have built this tower. A descendant of his, Sir John R., was famous for his long travels in France, Italy, etc., and he also translated Josephus' History. He was High Sheriff of Lincolnshire during the reign of Richard II.

In the fifteenth century this property passed out of the Rochford family into that of the Kymes; but whether by intermarriage or purchase is not known.

It afterward fell into the hands of the Crown by sequestration, and is now the property of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

This tower is built of brick, and quadrangular, having an octagon turret on its southeast angle, which contains a flight of seventy steps, communicating with the upper apartments. The top is covered with lead, and inclosed with an embattled parapet. This tower had formerly a moat around it, which is now filled up.







### *THE GUILDHALL.*

This is on South Street, and is a very ancient building, originally belonging to the Guild of the Blessed Mary, and built probably as early as 1100, now used by the mayor and corporation as a Town Hall, also for public meetings, lectures, etc. The front, represented in the engraving, is somewhat dilapidated, and shorn of much of its architectural beauty.

It was given to the corporation of Boston in 1554, by Henry VIII., and used by them for their corporate and judicial proceedings.

Massive pinnacles formerly decorated the sides as well as the center of the gable. The large window is still in a tolerable state of preservation.









### *A CHANTRY CHAPEL.*

This old building, which stood on South Place, was in all probability a chantry, and was doubtless erected at a very early date.

A chantry was a building erected in Roman Catholic countries by persons who left legacies for the purpose of having masses sung or chanted for the benefit of their souls, and such persons were generally buried under them.

These buildings were sometimes erected separately, but were generally attached to churches and monastic establishments. In cathedrals and large churches they were generally constructed within the church, often within the piers, and were usually enriched with sculpture and elaborate tracery, and adorned with gilding and painting.







### *JOHN FOXE'S BIRTHPLACE.*

This building has been greatly altered, and would not now be recognized from the accompanying picture, which represents it as it was in 1517, when Foxe was born. He was sent early to Oxford College, where he attained great proficiency in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. Before he left college he abandoned the Roman Catholic faith, and this being discovered he was expelled, and for many years suffered much from persecution. During the reign of Mary he was obliged to leave his native land, seeking refuge in Basle. After the death of Mary he returned to England, 1559, and died in London, 1587, in the seventieth year of his age.

Besides the book by which he is best known, the "Book of Martyrs," he wrote many other learned works, mostly of a controversial character.









### *THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.*

This school, which is built of brick, was erected by the mayor and burgesses of the town in 1567, being the ninth year of Queen Elizabeth's reign. Over the entrance is a tablet stating this fact.

The first head master was Walter Woodroffe, and his salary was £20 (\$100) per annum.

The plot of ground in which this school stands was called the Mart Yard, by reason that the great annual fair was held in it.







### *HUSSEY CASTLE.*

This old tower stands in an inclosure on the eastern side of St. John's Row, and is only the main portion of an extensive building erected probably by Sir William Hussey, in the reign of Edward IV. He was chief justice of the Court of King's Bench in 1481. A descendant of his who was made a baron by Henry VIII., and who had many other honors conferred upon him, having abetted an insurrection by the people of Lincolnshire against a subsidy that had been imposed on them, he was in June, 1538, beheaded at the city of Lincoln, and all his property confiscated to the Crown. This portion of it was afterward given to the town of Boston, which still retains possession of it. It is built of brick, and is in a very ruinous condition.

There is a strong probability that John G. Whittier, the poet, is a descendant, on his grandmother's side, of this family.









### *OLD MONASTERY.*

This is a portion of a Dominican monastery standing on Sibsey Lane ; and for many years after the suppression of the religious houses in the time of Henry VIII. this was used for various purposes, mostly for storage, but is now in such a dilapidated condition that it will probably never be repaired.

It dates back to about 1300 or thereabouts. All the four orders of mendicant friars were established in Boston soon after A.D. 1300, and in 1380 a great quarrel and battle took place among these friars, in which many were killed and wounded.







*OLD HOUSE ON ARCHER LANE.*

This is a very quaint old building, dating back, probably, to the reign of Edward III., if not still older. It is very dilapidated, and nothing about its history can be gleaned that is at all reliable.









### *FLEMISH MERCHANT'S HOUSE.*

This is a portion of a large house standing on Mitre Lane, which is believed to have been built by a Flemish merchant, in the reign of Edward I. The initials E. R. (Edward Rex) are plainly marked on the gable. It is now in a very dilapidated condition, and is mostly used as a storehouse.







### *WHITE HORSE INN.*

This stood on White Horse Lane. It is mentioned in 1564, and was held of Hussey Hall. This was a very ancient house, and was kept as an inn until about 1680, when the license was removed to Furthend Lane. In 1674 this house was held by James Cook, who paid one pound of cummin seed yearly to Hussey Hall. This was a very curious old building. The principal door, it will be observed, is in what is usually called the old Dutch style.









•

*ANCIENT HOUSE ON CHURCH STREET.*

This is a very ancient building ; but little or nothing that is reliable can be ascertained respecting it. It is used as a depository for religious publications. It was probably built about 1470.







*CURIOUS HOUSE ON STANBOW LANE.*

This is a very curious ancient house. It belonged to the Robinson family, formerly of great distinction and influence, and must have been built as early as 1570, and probably much earlier. The second door to the right is a curious one, and the ornamentation of the upper part of the house is very peculiar indeed. The large window is of course modern. In the interior are some fine specimens of carved work.

The first Mayor of Boston was Nicholas Robinson, in 1545.









### *TOMB OF A KNIGHT.*

This is the effigy of a Knight wrought in alabaster, but has neither coat of arms nor inscription. It is probable from the dress and sculpture of this figure that it belongs to the thirteenth century. These ancient tombs are placed under low arches in the wall, which no doubt were constructed for this purpose. This figure probably represents Sir Frederick Tilney, who accompanied Richard the Lion-hearted to the crusades.

This knight was of more than ordinary stature and strength, and performed prodigies of valor in the various battles fought for the possession of the Holy Land.

“The knight is dust,  
His good sword rust,  
His soul is with the saints we trust.”





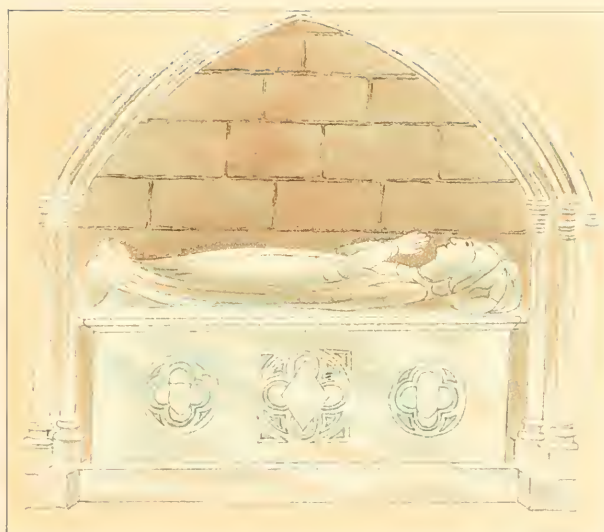


### *TOMB OF A LADY.*

By some this is supposed to represent Dame Margaret Tilney, who laid the foundation stone of St. Botolph's Church; but as the inscriptions have been obliterated we are left to conjecture: but there can be no doubt that this is the effigy of some fair and noble lady, who doubtless presided as the Queen of Love and Beauty at many a joust and tournament in the days of auld lang syne.

“Now caracoled the steeds in air,  
Now plumes and pennons wantoned fair,  
As all around the lists so wide  
In panoply the champions ride.  
This knight his youthful strength to prove,  
And that to win his lady's love.”









*'BARNHAM-BURTON HOUSE.*

The heirs of Richard Wyles occupied a house at what is now called Burton Corner, in 1611, then called Barnham House, for which they paid a quit-rent to the lords of Poynton Hall of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d (22 cents) and half a pound of pepper. In 1661 this property was held by Andrew Burton, and his grandson John paid the above quit-rent in 1692.

This is a most charming place, as may readily be seen by looking at the opposite page.







### *THE JERUSALEM HOUSE.*

The site of the Hospital of St. John was on the west side of Bargate Drain; but nothing now remains of it except an old building called Jerusalem House; but whether this is one of the original buildings, or whether some of the materials of the hospital were used in the erection of this house, is uncertain; at all events this is a very interesting and very old building. The Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, or Knights Hospitallers, as they were also called, had a Hospital in Boston, and two noted masters of the Order belonged here. One of them, Alexander de Poynton, was master of the Hospital outside of St. Botolph's in 1276; and another was Sir Wm. Weston, the last Lord Prior of England, at the time of the dissolution of the Order, in 1540. He died on the day the Priory was suppressed.









### *HERON'S HALL.*

This was a fine old mansion, of considerable extent, and was called Heron's and sometimes Hernshaw Hall. The stones used in its erection were said to have been taken from the church of St. John of Jerusalem, when that building was pulled down, so that this building would probably date back to about 1580, about which time this church was ordered to be taken down.







### *THE THREE TUNS INN.*

This was a noted old tavern, and among other things is famous from the circumstance that Oliver Cromwell slept here the night before he fought the battle of Winnebby, one of the most important engagements during the Civil War.

This is a very curious building, on account of the peculiar zigzag style of arranging the brickwork.











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E. WHITEFIELD, 211 TREMONT STREET.  
1889.



### *THE OLD STATE HOUSE.*

The following is a clear and succinct history of the famous old building: "On this spot stood, until its burning, Oct. 3, 1711, the first town house of Boston, founded in 1657 by the liberality of Capt. Robert Keayne. Here, in 1713, was erected the second town house, whose walls endure to this day, as do the floors and roof, constructed in 1717, after a second fire had devastated its chambers. Here the loyal assemblies obeyed the Crown; here the spirit of liberty was aroused and guided by the eloquent appeals and sagacious counsels of Otis, Adams, Quincy, Warren, Cushing, and Hancock; here the child Independence was born; here Washington received the tribute of an enfranchised people; here was installed the government of a new State; here for ten years our civil rulers assembled; and here, by the vote of the City Council of 1881, have been reconstructed, in their original form, the Council Chamber and Representatives' Hall,—hallowed by the memories of the Revolution. May our children preserve the sacred trust."







## SUN TAVERN.

Edward Bendall, the first owner of this estate, established in 1637, by leave of the town, a public ferry "to Noddle's Island" (East Boston), "and the ships riding before the town." A Cove, called Bendall's Cove, at that period extended from the sea to the foot of Exchange Street (covering the terrace now occupied by Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, and the granite pier) to the harbor, and at the head of the Cove, directly in front of the Sun Tavern site, was a dock, afterward called the Town Dock, from which Dock Square derives its name.

After Bendall, the estate came into the possession of Symon Lynde, Iron Monger, of England, who died in 1687; and in his will, dated 1685, he mentions "having already given and bestowed upon and unto each of my two sons, Samuel and Nathaniel, considerable estate, of and in which they are seized and possessed." The Sun Tavern estate fell to Samuel Lynde, and is referred to as "the house of the said Samuel Lynde" in a conveyance from Elisha Hutchinson to Benjamin Fitch, dated July 27, 1702. It was probably presented Samuel by his father, as his portion, upon the occasion of his marriage, in 1676, and was occupied by him as a residence probably until after the year 1700.

The style of architecture (with the two projections), and the framing material of the house, indicate it as one of the earliest of the colonial structures, the style and mode of building being in vogue much earlier than 1676, and but little used in towns after that date. Although the two stories are, respectively, but eight feet, and seven and a half feet in height, the principal timbers are of clear pine, twelve inches square, and the smaller framing of white oak, six inches square. The marks, still upon the timbers, prove that they were hewn by hand, and were undoubtedly cut from the immediate vicinity.

The first reference to it as a public house is in a conveyance by Samuel Lynde to Benjamin Fitch, dated Nov. 30, 1709, in which it is called "the Sun Tavern, now occupied by Thomas Phillips."

In 1721 Samuel Meers was the landlord, who, in 1727, was "lately deceased." By the will of Samuel Lynde, dated July 20, 1720, he gives and bequeaths unto his daughter, Mary Valentine, and her husband, John Valentine (after legacies), all his real and personal estate ("part of which was the Sun Tavern, with the tenement, shops, and land, at the head of the Town Dock, Boston"), and in 1711 it was conveyed by Thomas Valentine to Joseph Jackson, for twenty-four hundred and seventy pounds "in good bills of credit on the Province."

It was kept by Captain James Day, in 1755, and the Scots' Charitable Society held their meetings in it in 1756. During the siege of Boston it was taken possession of by the British, who changed its name to the "King's Arms."

It remained in possession of the heirs of the Lynde family until 1741, and since then it has had but four owners. It is now the property of Mr. Chas. W. Galloupe, in whose possession it has been for more than a quarter of a century.

It is probably the oldest, and certainly one of the most interesting, of the few remaining colonial buildings in existence in this city.







### *THE CHILD-SHEAFE HOUSE.*

This noted house stood at the corner of Essex and Columbia Streets, and was taken down a few years since. It was built by Thos. Child, a native of Boston, England, about 1728, who lived here for many years in grand style. The property afterward fell into the hands of the Sheafe family, and at the breaking out of the War, Lord Percy made this house his headquarters. The Sheafe family was a noted one in many respects. One of its members, Roger Sheafe, a great favorite of Lord Percy, became a prominent general in the British army, under the title of Sir Roger Hale Sheafe, Bart., and died in Edinburgh, 1851.









### *THE AUCHMUTY HOUSE.*

This fine old house stands at the corner of Washington and Cliff Streets, and was built by Judge Auchmuty, probably about 1756. He was a member of Governor Hutchinson's Council. When the British evacuated Boston he removed to Halifax, and the property was confiscated to the State.

Governor Sumner lived in this house and died here, and here his body lay in state before it was removed to the State House.

The First Baptist Society of Roxbury was gathered in this house, and here Rev. Dr. Sharp preached the first sermon.

During the Civil War all the work of the Roxbury Sanitary Society was collected in this house, and sent to the general office. It is now the residence of Mr. C. F. Bradford.







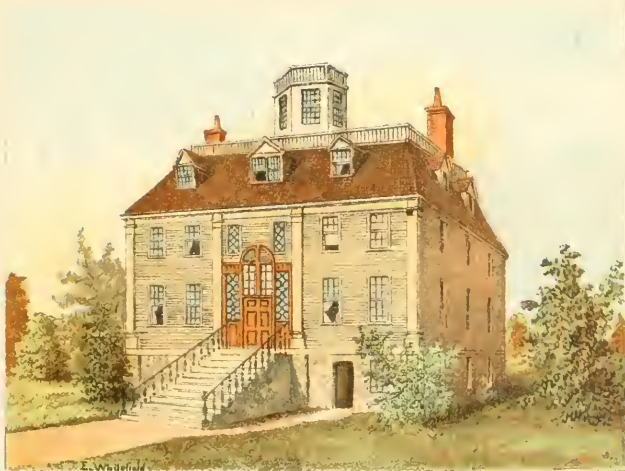
### *THE SHIRLEY HOUSE.*

This large and handsome mansion, standing on Shirley Street, Roxbury, was built by Governor Shirley, and here he died, March 24, 1771. It is said that most of the materials composing it were brought from England. The surroundings of this house are now very different to what they once were.

It is also called the Eustis House, as at a later date Governor Eustis lived there.

Wm. Shirley was born in Sussex, England, 1694, and was commissioned Governor of Massachusetts, as successor to Belcher, in 1741. He was one of the most popular of the royal governors, and it was during his control that the strong fortress of Louisburg was captured from the French.

Washington, Lafayette, Franklin, and other distinguished men have been the guests of this house.









### *THE PIERCE MANSION.*

This house, which stands on Oak Avenue, in what was formerly the town of Dorchester, now a part of Boston, was built by Robert Pierce, in the year 1640, ten years after he arrived from England in the ship *Mary and John*. It was occupied by him until his death, 1661, and since that time until the present has always been owned and occupied by his lineal descendants, representing nine generations of the family in this country.

Besides the wills and deeds of the property, many interesting articles of furniture have been preserved by the family; and among other things some bread or biscuit brought by Robert from England.

The house is in a good state of preservation, and has been but little changed by repairs.

It is quite probable that the name "Pierce" is a variation of Percy, the names of the noted border chieftains of Northumberland, so often celebrated in ballad and legend.

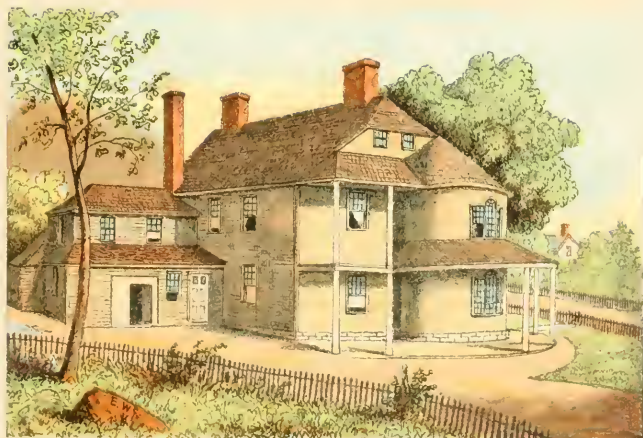






### *THE GARDNER HOUSE.*

This is a very old house on Pleasant Street, in Dorchester, built in all probability at least 200 years ago, but by whom cannot be ascertained. Ebenezer Niles lived here in the early part of the century. He was a merchant on Central Wharf, Boston, of the firm of Newell & Niles; but whether an ancestor of his built the house is uncertain. It afterward came into possession of the Gardner family, and was sold very recently, and will either be taken down or moved to another place. The rounded corners of this house were added by Governor Gardner's father.







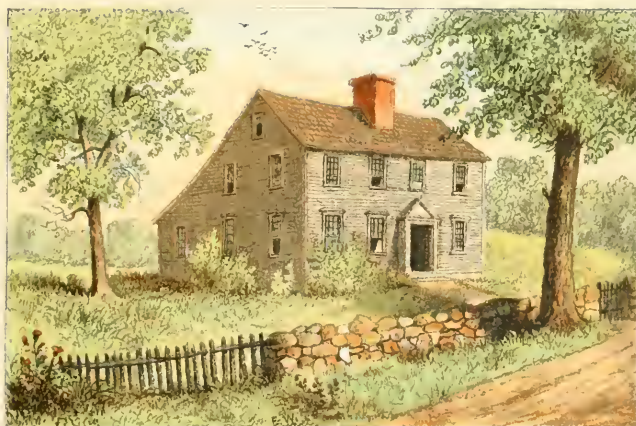


### *THE WARREN HOUSE.*

This house was built by Gen. Jos. Warren's grandfather, in 1720. It was used as quarters by Col. Dav. Brewer's regiment in 1775. It was pulled down by Dr. J. C. Warren in 1846, and a stone house built on the spot where the old one stood.

Gen. Jos. Warren, one of the first martyrs to the cause of liberty in New England, was born in this house, June 11, 1741. He was one of the most talented, fearless, and active of the early patriots.

This view is from a model.







## THE CRAFTS HOUSE.

This house is situated on Tremont Street, near the Brookline line, and is one of the oldest in Boston. It was built in 1703, by Jno. Ruggles. Back of the house is the orchard where all the celebrated Roxbury russets originated. Some of the apple trees measure now more than twelve feet in circumference.

An examination of the title to this house and the four-acre orchard in which it stands, shows that until very recently it had never been conveyed by deed.

In 1639 it was granted by the town of Boston to Thos. Ruggles, who, five years later, "knowynge all men must dye," left it by will to his son John. In October, 1658, "John Ruggles, being by God's hand weak in body yet light in memory, blessed be God," made his will, which was approved at a "Meetinge of the Magistrates, giving this home lott to his sonne John," who owned it until 1705, when it passed, by agreement, to his relative Eben Crafts. He died in 1722, and the lot descended to his son Eben, who lived in this house until 1789, when he died and left it to his son Eben, who resided here seventy-five years, and died in 1864. His trustees sold the old house and home lot to Stillman B. Allen, Esq., and this was the first deed ever made of the premises,









### *THE CURTIS HOUSE.*

This interesting old house stood near the Boylston Station on the Providence Road. It was taken down about three years since. It was built by William Curtis, about 1640, and was always in possession of his descendants until its recent sale. Washington occupied it for a short time at the commencement of the Revolutionary War.







### *THE THOREAU HOUSE.*

This old building stands on Prince Street. It is in a very dilapidated condition. It is chiefly noted for having been for many years owned by the Thoreau family.

Jno. Thoreau, grandfather of Henry, the well-known and somewhat eccentric writer, came to Boston from the Island of Jersey, in 1773, and soon afterward bought this house of the Orrok family. It was at that time about fifty years old, having been built about 1720 by a man named Sherwin. The removal of the Thoreaus to Concord, where Henry was born, took place in 1800, but this property remained until recently in possession of Maria Thoreau, the last of this family.









### *THE GEE-GRAY HOUSE.*

This building stands on Prince Street, at the corner of Lafayette Avenue. It was probably built by the Rev. Joshua Gee : at all events it belonged to him when he died, in 1750. This house was used as a military hospital during the occupation of Boston by the British troops, especially after the battle of Bunker Hill.

It was afterward noted for having been the residence of Capt. Wm. Gray, who was a noted ship-owner, and who built Gray's Wharf. It is now in a dilapidated condition, and will probably soon disappear.







### GREEN DRAGON INN.

This was in its day a very famous tavern, especially preceding and during the Revolutionary troubles. It was probably built by Deputy-Governor Stoughton, and it afterward had many owners. In 1695 it was kept by Alex. Smith. In 1713 it became the property of Dr. Wm. Douglas, the celebrated Scotch physician.

This interesting old building stood on Union Street, and there is a stone tablet in the front wall of Nos. 80-86, showing the dragon carved in relief. It was taken down in 1828.

The first religious services of the Sandemanians were held here, in 1764.

At the breaking out of the Revolutionary troubles it was a prominent resort of the leading patriots.

This is evident from the following sample of patriotic poetry published at this period :—

“ Rally, Mohawks ! bring out your axes,  
And tell King George we'll pay no taxes  
On his foreign tea.  
His threats are vain : he need not think  
To force our wives and girls to drink  
His vile Bohea !  
Then rally, boys ! and hasten on  
To meet our chiefs at the Green Dragon.”









### *THE PROVINCE HOUSE.*

The Province House was situated about seventy feet west of what is now Washington Street, almost opposite the Old South Church, with ample grounds filled with shrubbery and flower gardens, and altogether a most attractive place. It was built in 1679 for a private residence by Peter Sargeant, a wealthy London merchant, who came here a few years before. In 1716 the Province purchased it for the use of the Government, and several of the royal governors afterward made it their place of abode. After the Revolution it was occupied for State offices until the present State House was completed. In 1811 it was granted to the Massachusetts General Hospital, who leased it for ninety-nine years to David Greenough. In 1864 it was nearly destroyed by fire. What has been left of it is so surrounded by other buildings that it is difficult to trace its remains. The vane, made of copper and representing an Indian, has been preserved, and is owned by the Massachusetts Historical Society.







## THE GALLOUPE HOUSE.

The "Galloupe House," No. 16 Hull Street, was erected in 1724 by a Mr. Clough, and was purchased by Mr. Benjamin Gallop (afterward called Galloupe), in 1772, who died in 1776, just after the Declaration of Independence. The estate then became the property of his youngest son, Richard, and after Richard's death was inherited by the youngest daughter, who married Mr. William Marble, and was sold by him in 1877, a short time after the death of his wife.

This house was occupied by the British troops in 1775, and was the headquarters of General Gage on the day of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Its timbers were cut in the vicinity.

Benjamin Gallop, owner of the so-called "Galloupe House," on Hull Street, was the grandson of Benadam Gallop, who in 1688, as second officer of the Sloop *Mary*,—Capt. Samuel Pease, Commander (who was fatally wounded during the engagement),—captured the notorious pirate Tom Pound, who was afterward hung in chains upon the (then) island called Nix's Mate, in Boston Harbor.

The grandfather of this Benadam was the son of Capt. John Gallop, who was slain at the famous Narragansett Swamp fight, in 1676, while in command of his own company and the Mohegan Indians, and the grandson of Capt. John Gallop, who, in 1636, in Narragansett Bay, captured the vessel which was taken by the Indians from John Oldham, and of whom Cooper, in his *Naval History*, says, fought "the first engagement that probably ever occurred between the inhabitants of the American Colonies and enemies afloat."

"Gallop's Island," in Boston Harbor, was owned and occupied by the latter Captain John: and the island of Nix's Mate, upon which the pirate was hung, was also granted to him in 1636, by the Colonial Government, and contained at that time twelve acres of high land, all of which has since entirely disappeared.









### *HANCOCK TAVERN.*

In a narrow alley leading out of Faneuil Hall Square, called Corn Court, stands an ancient hostelry, which claims to be the oldest inn now remaining in Boston; but it has been so changed that it bears little resemblance to the original building, which doubtless was not more than two stories high. There is little doubt that the present building occupies the site of the first inn built in Boston, by Samuel Cole, in 1634. This building has long since disappeared, and the present brick structure was erected about 1730, or thereabouts, and it was, like the Green Dragon, a place of resort by the patriots in the early Revolutionary days. It was not known by its present name until after the election of John Hancock as Governor, in 1780, when John Duggan was the landlord.

During the last days of the eighteenth century this inn was the favorite resort of noted foreigners who visited this country, among whom may be mentioned Talleyrand and Louis Philippe. It was also a favorite resort of Benjamin Franklin.







## NEWMAN HOUSE.

COR. SALEM AND SUDBURY STREETS.

This was probably built by Jonathan Dwight, about 1737. He sold it in 1741 to Thos. Newman. Robert, one of his sons, was sexton of Christ Church, and was undoubtedly the man who hung the lanterns in the tower as a signal to Revere. British officers were quartered in the house, but young Newman climbed out of his window to the back shed, which is shown in the view, and then easily jumped to the ground, whence, having the keys, he entered the church, and having hung the lanterns returned to his room in the same way, without having any suspicions attached to him. It is possible that he was arrested, but nothing could be proved against him.

It has been recently taken down.









### *THE PAINE-TREMERE HOUSE.*

This is probably the oldest brick house now remaining in Boston. It was probably built by John Paine, and he sold it to Wm. Downe, in 1674. It stands at the extreme end of North Street, and has long been in possession of the Tremere family.

Its peculiarities may be seen at a glance: the heavy bands, the various shapes of the windows, its massive chimneys, etc., are well worthy of notice; and the rear of the house, as well as the interior, are well worth a visit.







### *THE OLD FEATHER STORE.*

This old and well-known building, which was taken down about 1860, stood at the corner of North Street and Dock Square. It was built in 1680. Its overhanging stories and many gables, and other features, so different from the monotonous appearance of surrounding buildings, always rendered it an object of curiosity to strangers visiting Boston, and it is a great pity that it has not been preserved as a memento of by-gone times.

Almost all kinds of business have been carried on here ; among others the Simpsons kept a feather store here ; but why this particular business rather than any other should have become its cognomen, I am unable to say.









### *PAUL REVERE'S HOUSE.*

This house stands on North Square, and was built in 1678 by Robert Howard. It had afterward several owners, and in 1770 John Erving sold it to Paul Revere. He lived here about thirty years, and afterward removed to a brick house in Charter Street.

The exterior has been materially changed. It had originally three windows in the upper story, and the front door in the middle of the lower story.

Paul Revere was descended from a French Huguenot family. He was born in Boston (where is not known), Dec. 21, 1734.

His career as a leader in the great struggle for liberty and independence is so well known that it is needless to go into details. After the close of the war he resumed his business as a gold and silversmith and a manufacturer of bells, for which he was very famous. The first bell he cast was in 1792. It weighed 912 pounds, and cost nearly £75. This famous bell is said to be still in existence.

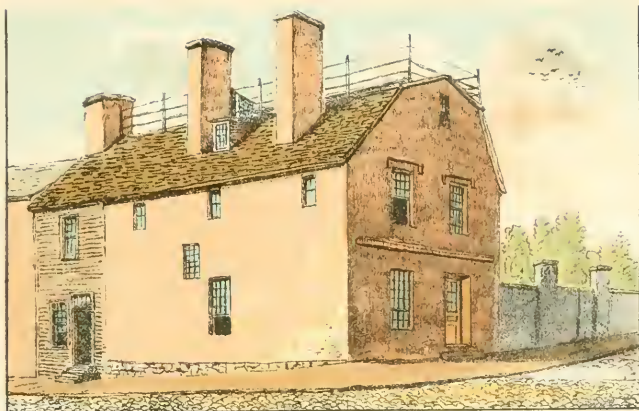






### *THE CLOUGH HOUSE.*

This stands at the corner of Sheafe and Margaret Streets, and was built about 1722 by Benjamin Clough. It afterward came by marriage into the possession of the Waters family, and continued to be owned by them until 1850. It is the oldest house on the street. The front door used to be on the south side, where was a large garden.









### *THE 'BLAKE HOUSE.*

This very old house is in Dorchester: was built in 1650, by Deacon James Blake. It stands in the rear of Cottage Street. The descendants of Deacon Blake were prominent men in the town of Dorchester, as well as elsewhere. It is not certain, although quite probable, that this James Blake was a nephew of the celebrated Admiral Blake, who was born at Bridgewater, in Somersetshire, England, in 1598. The Admiral was an ardent Republican, and did good service on land, as well as at sea.







*BIRTHPLACE OF EDWARD EVERETT.*

This was built about 1770.

The Rev. Oliver Everett was pastor of the New South Church in Boston in 1782, and after giving up his pastorate there removed to Dorchester, and in this house his son, the noted Edward Everett, was born in 1794.

It stands on the corner of Boston and Pond Streets. It is said to have been occupied by General Washington.

It is said that Robt. Oliver, a West India merchant, built this house.









### *WELLS MANSION.*

The oldest part of this building (the most prominent portion in the picture) was probably built about 1670, but by whom it is difficult to say. The farther portion is somewhat more modern. Adam Winthrop owned it in 1700, and afterward it passed through many ownerships. For nearly a hundred years past it has belonged to the Wells family.

It is probably the oldest wooden building now standing at the North End of Boston; and its timbers are so substantial that it may last for many years yet.

It is the only old house left in Boston having two projecting stories: and this fact alone is proof of its antiquity.

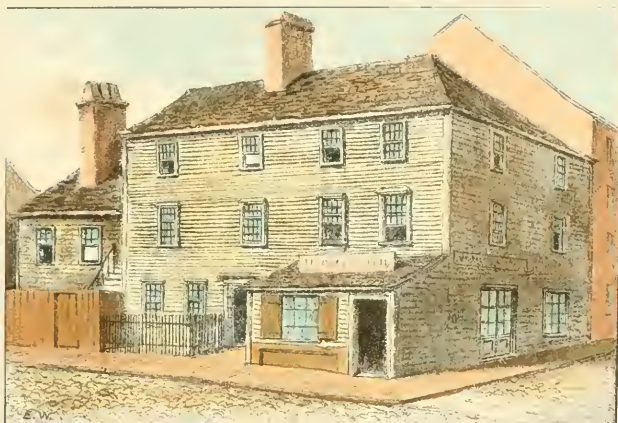






### *THE BADGER HOUSE.*

This old house is on Prince Street, corner of Thatcher Street, and was built about 1750, probably by Benjamin Brown, and afterward owned by Caleb Champney. Col. Thos. Badger bought it in 1802. He was quite a prominent man in his time. This building, which, quaint and somewhat dilapidated, has, with the exception of the shop in front, been very little changed.









### *THE FANEUIL MANSION.*

This large and handsome building stood nearly opposite King's Chapel, was built by Andrew F., the uncle of Peter Faneuil, and he became the wealthiest merchant in Boston. The Faneuils were descended from a French Huguenot family, who fled from France to avoid persecution. Here he lived in a style that befitted his wealth and position. But he is best known for his munificent gift of the structure that bears his name, to the town of Boston. Faneuil did not live long after the completion of the Hall; and in 1761 it unfortunately caught fire and burnt to the ground. The new hall was completed March 14, 1764.

Miss Quincy thus describes this mansion: "The deep courtyard, ornamented by flowers and shrubs, was divided into an upper and lower platform by a high glacis, surmounted by a richly wrought iron railing. The edifice was of brick. The terraces that rose from the paved court behind the house were supported by massive walls of hewn granite, and were ascended by flights of steps. A grasshopper glittered on a summer house which commanded a view second only to that from Beacon Hill."







### *THE OLD CORNER BOOKSTORE.*

The land upon which this well-known building stands belonged, in the early days, to William Hutchinson.

It afterward passed through several ownerships, and in the fire of October, 1711, the buildings which stood here were burnt down; and in the following year the present brick building was erected, by a Mr. Crease.

From this date the property has been sold and re-sold, and, in 1817, the front part was used as an apothecary shop by Dr. Sam'l Clarke, father of the Rev. Jas. Freeman Clarke, until 1828; since which time it has been famous as a bookstore.

During all this time it has, of course, gone through many alterations; so that at the present time it retains very few of its original features.









### *THE ASPINWALL HOUSE.*

This old house, standing on Aspinwall Avenue, Brookline, opposite St. Paul's Episcopal Church, was built about 1660 by Peter Aspinwall, who came from Toxteth Park, near Liverpool, England, in 1630. He settled first in Dorchester, where he lived till 1650, when he and Robert Sharp bought of William Colburn the farm on which this house stands. The house has never been owned by any one but a direct descendant of Peter Aspinwall. It is owned now by the Honorable William Aspinwall, to whom it was devised by his father, the late Colonel Thomas Aspinwall, who died in 1876, and to whom it had been devised by his father, the late Dr. William Aspinwall, who died in 1823. Mr. Aspinwall is in the sixth generation from his ancestor Peter. Since 1803 the house has not been occupied by any member of the Aspinwall family, Dr. Aspinwall having moved in that year to the house built by him on the road to Watertown, now called Washington Street. This last house is owned and occupied by the only grandson of its builder of the same name—the Honorable William Aspinwall before mentioned.







### *KING'S CHAPEL.*

A small wooden building was erected on this spot for conducting religious services according to the forms of the Church of England, under the governorship of Andros, but it was not until 1749 that Governor Shirley laid the foundation stone of this quaint old edifice.

In 1783, under the ministry of Mr. Freeman, the society abandoned the dogma of the Trinity, and thus the first Episcopal Church became the first Unitarian Church of New England.

The first organ ever used in New England was given to this society, in 1713, by Thos. Brattle.

In the burying ground adjoining lie the remains of Rev. John Cotton. Here, also, were interred the following governors: John Winthrop, in 1649; John Endicott, 1665; John Leverett, 1679; and Wm. Shirley, 1771, besides many other eminent men.









### *KIMBALL-PARKER HOUSE.*

This peculiar old house stands on Unity Street: was built by Ebenezer Kimball about 1710, or perhaps somewhat earlier, and he sold it to Caleb Parker in 1724, and it has continued in the possession of his descendants until the present time. The bricks are said to have been imported from England, and are larger than those in general use. It has wide bands similar to those in the Tremere House.







### *THE MATHER-ELIOT HOUSE.*

This is a portion of an old wooden building squeezed in between two larger buildings, near the north corner of Hanover and Bennett Streets.

Built by Increase Mather in 1677, and here he died in 1723. Here his son, Cotton Mather, was born, and spent his early days.

It afterward was owned by Rev. Andrew Eliot, and then by his son, John Eliot, D.D., who was born in 1754, and who, after preaching a few years in different places, was ordained as the successor of his father, in 1779, pastor of the new North Church, Boston. He died in 1813.

This house has been disfigured by a miserable little shop built in front of the lower story, and which is not represented in the picture.









### *ORANGE-LINCOLN HOUSE.*

This building stands at the corner of Salem and North Bennett Streets. It was built by Robert Orange, about 1716, and he kept it as a tavern until his death, in 1734. It, after changing hands several times, became the property of Noah Lincoln, who lived here until his death, in 1856. Since that time it has undergone many changes and alterations; but the old paneled chimneys still remain.







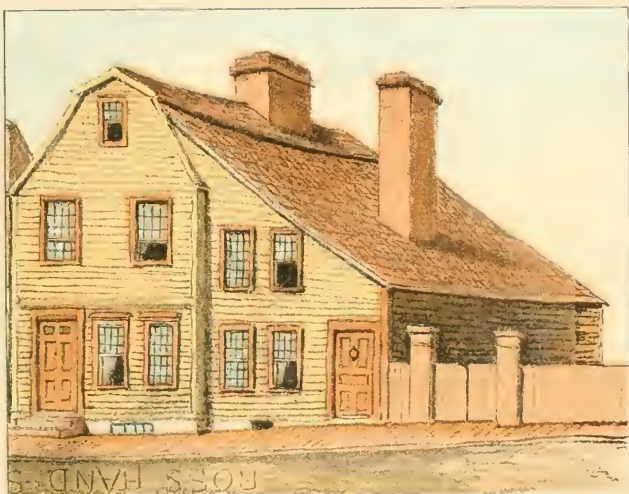
## *THE HARTT HOUSE.*

HULL STREET.

Built, probably, about 1740, by —— Baker. The Hartts were great shipwrights.

Capt. Edmund Hartt built in his own yard the famous frigate "Constitution," and many other famous ships.

Edward, his oldest son, bought this house, in 1803, of the heirs of Alex. Baker.









### *CAPEN HOUSE.*

This was built by a descendant of Bernard Capen, who came to this country 1633, and settled in Dorchester. He was a very old man when he came to this country, as he died five years afterward, aged seventy-six. His gravestone is supposed to have been the oldest in New England.

This house is on Union Street, corner of Marshall Lane, and was for several generations owned and occupied by the Capen family. It was once the great dry-goods store of Boston: and here Benj. Thompson (afterward Count Rumford) and Samuel Parkman served as apprentices to Hopestill Capen.







## *TILESTON HOUSE.*

COR. PRINCE AND MARGARET STREETS.

John Tileston, who lived in this house, was the most noted school-master that Boston ever had. He was born in Boston, Feb. 27, 1735. In 1762 he was appointed master of the school in Bennett Street, at a salary of \$500 per annum; and here he remained until 1819, when he retired; but his salary, which he richly deserved, was continued to his death, Oct. 13, 1826.

This house where he lived so long was once a very pleasant domicile, shaded by trees, but it has been shockingly disfigured, and, added to that, it retains scarcely any semblance of its former respectability. He left no descendants.









### *OCHTORLONY HOUSE.*

NORTH STREET.

The exact age of this house is not known : Dr. John Perkins lived here in 1665. It was sold to Capt. Edward Martyn, in 1717, and his widow sold it to Andrew Tyler, whose wife was sister to Sir William Pepperell. In 1762 it was purchased by Capt. David Ochtorlony, a son of the Laird of Pitforth, in Scotland. Captain Ochtorlony's son David entered the British army, in which he attained high distinction, becoming a Major-General and a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Bath. His father died in this house, and it has since had several owners, and the front on North Street has been entirely changed : but the side and end retain their antique appearance, except the windows, which have modern sashes in them.







### *CLOUGH-VERNON HOUSE.*

The old house stands on Vernon Place, off Charter Street, and was probably built by William Clough, as he was living here in 1698. It is a fine specimen of the houses built in early times. It will be noticed that the second story at the end overhangs the lower part considerably, which fact alone would attest its great age. The middle door and the stack of chimneys are also worthy of notice.









## CHRIST CHURCH.

ON SALEM STREET, OPPOSITE HULL STREET.

This is the oldest church edifice now standing in Boston, having been built in 1723. Its style of architecture is very plain and simple, but is very substantially built.

It possesses a chime of eight bells, brought from England in 1744, and here the first organ was placed in 1736; the present organ took its place very recently.

On the 9th of October, 1801, a violent storm blew down the steeple, and the present one was erected in 1807, which is eighteen feet lower than the old one, but exactly similar to it in style.

The proper name of this building is Christ Church, but it is now generally known as the "Old North Church."

There is no reasonable doubt that it was from the windows of this church the lanterns were hung as a signal to Paul Revere, April 18, 1775.

In front of the tower is a tablet with the following inscription :—

THE SIGNAL LANTERNS OF  
PAUL REVERE,  
DISPLAYED IN THE STEEPLE OF THIS CHURCH  
APRIL 18, 1775,  
WARNED THE COUNTRY OF THE MARCH  
OF THE BRITISH TROOPS TO  
LEXINGTON AND CONCORD.











### *OLD SOUTH MEETING-HOUSE.*

This, the third church organized in Boston, was built in 1730, replacing a wooden building.

Many important meetings were held here at the breaking out of the Revolutionary War.

Benjamin Franklin, who was born in a house on the opposite side of the street, was baptized here.

Its walls have resounded to the eloquence of Whitefield.

It is no longer used for sacred services, but is a historical museum building.









### *FIRST MEETING-HOUSE.*

This probably represents the first meeting-house built by the early settlers of Boston, as correctly as any other that has been before pictured of it. We know little more than that its walls were built of clay or mud, and that it was covered with a straw roof. It stood opposite to, and very near, where the Old State House now is.







## BLACKSTONE'S HOUSE.

There is no certainty as to the exact date of Blackstone's settlement in Boston: but judging from what little we can glean from Winthrop's History of New England, it is probable that he came from England, with Captain Wollaston, in 1625, and left that company on Morton's arrival, and made a settlement in 1626, so that on the arrival of Winthrop he had been living here some three or four years. He sold out all his claim to the Winthrop colony, in 1635.

We find by the records that at a court 1 April, 1633: "It is agreed that Mr. Wm. Blaxton shall have 50 acres set out for him near to his house in Boston to enjoy forever." It is quite probable that he was a clergyman of the Church of England, of a liberal turn of mind, and that he did not fall in with the strict and sombre notions of the Puritans, and therefore left them, and retired to what is now Rhode Island, where he laid out a farm on the stream called after him, Blackstone River, a few miles from Providence. Here he lived until his death, May 26, 1675. He was married July 4, 1659, to Sarah Stephenson, a widow, by Governor John Endicott. He well improved his new estate, and apples from his farm were held in high repute.

About a year after his death the Indians burnt his house, and a valuable library was thus destroyed.

The proper spelling of his name was Blaxton, as this is the way he signed it at Emanuel College, Cambridge, when he took his degrees of A.B. and A.M., in 1617 and 1621.

As he was alone when found by Winthrop's company, and had no means of obtaining glass for his windows or shingles for his house, it was undoubtedly built of clay or mud, and covered with hay or straw, and the chimney probably built of rough stones, plastered with clay. It stood somewhere near the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets, very near the water.















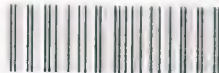








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